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Message Text

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22
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 ARA-06 ACDA-05 IO-11 AID-05 SAM-01

SAJ-01 /105 W
---------- 130547
R 091611Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7543
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, NL, TS
SUBJECT: VISIT OF TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: THE HAGUE 297

1. SUMMARY: IN DISCUSSIONS WITH DUTCH OFFICIALS, FONMIN CHATTI EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER EVENTS IN THE WESTERN SAHARA, HIS PESSIMISM OVER PROSPECTS FOR GETTING RUSSIAN AND CUBAN MILITARY PERSONNEL OUT OF ANGOLA, AND HIS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE EEC FOR SHOWING FAVORITISM TOWARD ALGERIA IN RECENTLY CONCLUDED AGREEMENTS WITH MAGHREB COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY

2. ACCORDING TO THE NORTH AFRICAN DESK IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, TUNISIAN FONMIN CHATTI EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN OVER RECENT EVENTS IN THE WESTERN SAHARA DURING HIS TWO-DAY VISIT TO THE NETHERLANDS FEB 4-6. CHATTI TOLD DUTCH FONMIN VAN DER STOEL THAT THE BLAME FOR THE EVENTS IN THE SAHARA RESTS WITH THE ICJ (SIC) FOR ITS ADVISORY
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OPINION ON THE SAHARA, AND WITH THE UNGA FOR ADOPTING TWO CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS ON THE TERRITORY. HE SAID THAT THE ONLY HOPE HE SAW TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE WOULD BE TO RECOGNIZE THE MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN DIVISION OF THE TERRITORY AND ALSO TO GRANT THE INHABITANTS THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. (DUTCH OFFICIALS SAID THAT THEY HAD NO IDEA HOW CHATTI SAW THAT SOLUTION AS A POSSIBILITY, BUT PERHAPS IT EXPLAINED WHY A VISIT OF THE TUNISIAN INTERIOR MINISTER TO ALGIERS AS MEDIATOR HAD FAILED.)

2. THE TUNISIAN FONMIN SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THE CURRENT SITUATION IN ANGOLA TO BE THE LOGICAL OUTCOME OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT'S HAVING FAVORED THE MPLA. HE ALSO TOLD VAN DER STOEL THAT HESITATION ON THE PART OF THE WEST IN FAILING TO ASSIST OTHER ELEMENTS IN ANGOLA WAS ALSO TO BE BLAMED. THE WEST MUST LEARN A LESSON FROM ANGOLA. SEEMINGLY RESIGNED TO EVENTUAL VICTORY OF THE MPLA, CHATTI SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY BE FORCED TO RECOGNIZE IT WITHIN TWO-THREE MONTHS. HE WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE CHANCES FOR GETTING RUSSIAN AND CUBAN TROOPS OUT OF ANGOLA, BUT THOUGHT THAT RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA GOVERNMENT BY THE REST OF AFRICA AND THE WEST MIGHT EVENTUALLY HELP THE MOVEMENT END ITS DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS.

3. CHATTI TOLD VAN DER STOEL THAT HE WAS GREATLY DISAPPOINTED THAT ALGERIA HAD GOTTEN A BETTER PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE EEC THAN HAD MOROCCO AND TUNISIA. HE SAID THE DIFFERECENS IN THE AGREEMENTS WERE NOT SO IMPORTANT ECONOMICALLY, BUT WOULD BE POLITICALLY. HE FEARED THAT ALGERIA WOULD PLAY IT UP AS A VICTORY FOR ITS PROGRESSIVE REVOLUTIONARY POLICIES OVER THE PRO-WESTERN LINE TAKEN BY MOROCCO AND TUNISIA.

4. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, CHATTI EXPRESSED SOME SATISFACTION WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE LAST UN SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE. HE SAID THAT, SAVE FOR THE US VETO, THE FACT THAT NO COUNTRY HAD VOTED AGAINST THE RESOLUTION INDICATED TO HIM THAT IT HAD MET WITH GENERAL APPROVAL. IT WAS HIS OPINION THAT EVEN THE US HAD FAVORED THE RESOLUTION AND HAD ONLY VETOED IT IN RESPONSE TO US DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES. HE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT IT HAD BEEN A MISTAKE FOR EUROPE TO LEAVE IT TO OTHERS TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EASTERN PROBLEM IN RECENT YEARS.
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5. REGRETTING THAT, BECAUSE OF OTHER BUSINESS, HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO COME TO TUNIS FOR THE MARCH 20 INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES, VAN DER STOEL PROMISED THAT ONE OF THE DUTCH STATE SECRETARIES WOULD ATTEND.

6. MFA OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT CONVERSATIONS WERE LARGELY COMPOSED OF CHATTI MONOLOGUES, WITH VAN DER STOEL ONLY REPEATING

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WELL-KNOWN DUTCH POSITIONS.
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